Exhibition Background

The events of September 11, 2001, shook the world. The attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania were the worst acts of terrorism ever to occur in the United States. This exhibition commemorates the compassion of people around the globe and the resilience at Ground Zero during the process of recovery.

On September 11, people were horrified by what they saw on television, heard on the radio, read in newspapers, or witnessed with their eyes. Many searched for ways to express their outrage and sorrow. Millions created expressions of their deepest feeling in sympathy with the people of the United States.



Visitor examines messages in After 9/11 display case

The destruction of the World Trade Center transformed New York City. In the midst of the devastation, thousands of people worked for months to remove and sort through the debris. Slowly, they helped New York and the United States find a renewed strength and faith in humanity, redefining, in the process, the meaning of heroism and dedication.





Children's art from After 9/11





Children's art from *After 9/11*



Condolence message

Messages from the World

In response to the tragedy, U.S. embassies and consulates received an overwhelming number of messages. For many people abroad, the unexpectedness of the attack compounded their feelings of helplessness in the face of tragedy. Creating a message of sympathy was a profoundly human way to communicate sorrow, extend solidarity, assert humanity, and renew their sense of purpose. Each message says, "I am here. Humanity prevails."

Images of Ground Zero

In New York City, a ceaseless effort unfolded after September 11 to rescue survivors, locate remains, and remove the debris of the fallen towers. Slowly, the rescue efforts turned to recovery, and recovery to clean-up. The orchestrated effort of thousands of workers continued through Memorial Day 2002, when the last remaining steel beam was removed. In the days and months following the attacks on the World Trade Center, photographer Joel Meyerowitz was given unique access to Ground Zero to document and create a remembrance archive for the Museum of the City of New York. His photos capture the magnitude of the destruction, the fortitude of the workers, and the transformation from a site of devastation to 16-acres of hallowed ground, readied for reconstruction.

An extensive exhibition of Meyerowitz's photographs at Ground Zero was organized through the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in February 2002. The exhibition has been seen in 185 cities in 75 countries around the world.



North Tower and Woolworth Building—Joel Meyerowitz

The United States Diplomacy Center **Bureau of Public Affairs U.S. Department of State**



Fire hat signed by Australian fireman

The U.S. Diplomacy Center strives to increase awareness of diplomacy and the work of the Department of State. An office in the Bureau of Public Affairs, the Diplomacy Center engages the public through conferences, traveling exhibitions and educational programs.

The Center is currently planning a permanent exhibition hall with state-of-the-art displays that tell the story of American Diplomacy, interactive educational programs that prepare youth for the global challenges of tomorrow and an endowed chair to promote scholarship and creativity in the field of diplomacy.

Messages from the World











Seoul, Korea

Bagpiper, Montevideo Uruguay

Images of Ground Zero







and Explosion





Welder Wounded by

Exploded Bullets

Midnight









May 20, 2002



Center

United States Diplomacy Center Bureau of Public Affairs U.S. Department of State 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037

Phone: 202.736.9055 • Fax: 202.736.9025 E-mail: usdc@state.gov

U.S. Department of State Publication

After

Messages from the World and Images of Ground Zero



An exhibition organized by

United States Diplomacy Center, United States Department of State in collaboration with

The Museum of the City of New York